

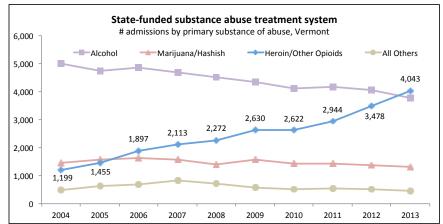
Facts

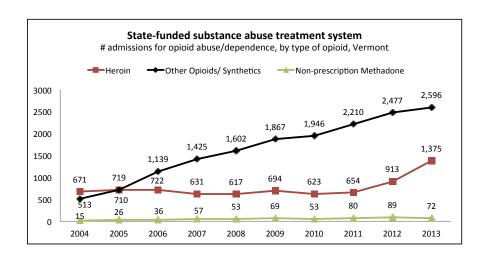
What are opioids?

Opioids — such as prescription painkillers and heroin — are powerful drugs. Opioids slow breathing and heartbeat, and act on the brain to relieve pain and increase feelings of pleasure.

More Vermonters have access to treatment.

- More than 4,000 people were in state-funded treatment for opioid abuse in 2013 — up from 399 in 2000, reflecting the state's greatly expanded access to treatment.
- The rise in treatment for heroin has nearly doubled from 2011 to 2013.
- In 2013, opioids became the primary drug of abuse for people seeking treatment.





Vermont Department of Health/Alcohol & Drug Abuse Programs data

Facts

Opioid addiction is a lifelong chronic illness.

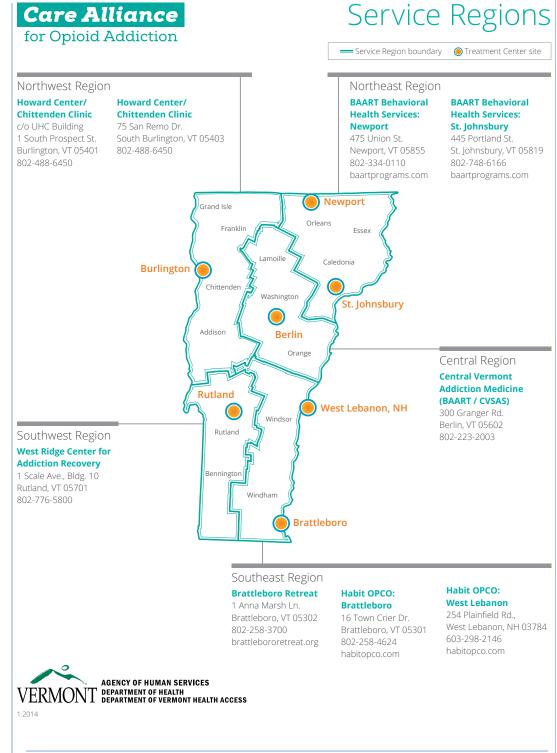
Just like diabetes or heart disease, managing a person's addiction requires effective medical treatment along with lifestyle changes. Treatment of opioid addiction may also require medication to prevent cravings and relapse.

The Care Alliance for Opioid Addiction

is a statewide partnership of clinicians and treatment centers to provide medication assisted therapy to Vermonters who are addicted to opioids.

The Care Alliance uses a Hub (treatment facility) & Spoke (physician-led team) model to make sure that each patient's care is effective and coordinated, and is supported by the nurses and counselors who work to connect each person with community-based support services.

Medication assisted therapy facilities opened in 2004, 2006, 2008, 2012 and 2013. Despite greatly expanded access to care, in some parts of the state there are people waiting for services.



The need for treatment is greatest among young adults.

- Vermonters age 18–25 have one of the highest rates for the non-medical use of pain relievers.
 National Survey on Drug Use & Health 2012
- In 2011, Vermont had the second highest per capita rate of all states for treatment admissions for prescription opioids. Only Maine's rate is higher. *Treatment Episode Data Set 2011*